



## HSWR-214 – Introduction to Addictions

### Health and Human Services

**Effective Term & Year:** Fall 2025

**Course Outline Review Date:** 2030-04-01

**Program Area:** Child Youth and Family Studies

#### Description:

This course provides an overview of current practices, theories, and models for working with people who use substances. Students will learn about the theories of substance use disorder and the ethical considerations for supporting individuals who use substances, with a focus on justice, cultural sensitivity, and awareness of personal biases. The course's techniques include: analyzing substances' physiological, societal, and individual impacts, strategies for reducing harm, assessing treatment theories and exploring regional resources, including intercultural understanding and Indigenous people's perspectives.

#### Program Information:

This course is a requirement for the Human Service Worker Diploma and the Aboriginal Education Support Worker Diploma. It is also an elective course for the CYFS Diploma Program.

**Delivery Methods:** Online

**Credit Type:** College of the Rockies Credits

**Credits:** 3

#### Instructional Activity and Hours:

Activity	Hours
Classroom, Directed Studies or Online Instruction	45

Seminar/Tutorials	
Laboratory/Studio	
Practicum/Field Experience	
Co-op/Work Experience	
Other	
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>

### Course Requisites:

- Earned a minimum grade of C+ (65%) in at least 1 of the following:
  - [ENFP 12](#) – English First Peoples 12
  - [ENST 12](#) – English Studies 12
  - [ENGL090](#) – English – Provincial Level

### Prior Learning and Recognition: Yes

Students are able to request formal recognition of their prior learning or experience outside the classroom. Challenge examination, portfolio-assisted assessment, work-based assessment or a combination of assessments that is appropriate to identify, assess, and recognize prior skills, competencies, and knowledge to achieve course credit. Tuition fees apply, refer to [Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) or contact an education advisor for more information.

### Course Transfer Credit:

For information about receiving transfer credit for courses taken at either British Columbia or Alberta institutions, please see <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or <https://transferalberta.alberta.ca> . For more transfer credit information, please visit <https://www.cotr.bc.ca/Transfer>

All requests for course transfer credit from institutions in British Columbia or elsewhere should go to the College of the Rockies Enrolment Services office.

### Textbook Resources:

Textbook selection varies by instructor and may change from year to year. At the Course Outline Effective Date the following textbooks were in use:

Crouse, J. (2022). *Exploring Substance Use in Canada: A Curriculum for Social Service Workers* [Open Source Textbook]. NSCC. <https://pressbooks.nsc.ca/substanceuse/>

Please see the instructor's syllabus or check COTR's online text calculator <https://textbook.cotr.bc.ca/> for a complete list of the currently required textbooks.

### Learning Outcomes:

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Examine individual and societal attitudes and beliefs about substance use and related ethical issues.
- Differentiate how various theories of substance use disorder apply to a case study.
- Assess best practices within regional Indigenous and non-Indigenous treatment services.
- Explain/Describe types of substances, their physiological impacts, and methods for reducing risks of harm when used.
- Demonstrate intercultural understanding and respect for Indigenous ways of knowing when supporting people who use substances.

### Course Topics:

- Theories of Substance Use Disorder
- Ethical Considerations for Supporting People who Use Substances
- Indigenous People's and Decolonizing Perspectives
- Physiological Impacts of Substance Use
- Reducing Risks of Harm
- Treatment Theories and Resources

*See the instructor's syllabus for the detailed outline of weekly readings, activities and assignments.*

## Evaluation and Assessments

### Assessment Type: Online

Assessment Type	% of Total Grade
Case Study	25%
Learning Portfolio	50%
Final Test	25%
Total	100%

## Grade Scheme

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
>=90	89-85	84-80	79-76	75-72	71-68	67-64	63-60			<60

### Exam Attendance:

Students must attend all scheduled exams at the appointed time and place. Instructors may approve an alternate exam to accommodate an illness or personal crisis. Department heads will consider other written requests. Any student who misses a scheduled exam without prior approval will receive a "0" on the exam.

### Academic Policies:

College of the Rockies policies related to courses can be found at <https://cotr.bc.ca/about-us/college-policies/> and include the following:

- Policy 2.1.4 Course Audit
- Policy 2.4.1 Credential Framework
- Policy 2.4.3 Students with Documented Disabilities
- Policy 2.4.4 Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct
- Policy 2.4.8 Academic Performance
- Policy 2.4.9 Student Feedback and Concerns
- Policy 2.4.11 Storage of Academic Works
- Policy 2.5.3 Student Appeal
- Policy 2.5.5 Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

### Equivalent Course(s) and Course Code Changes

Prior Course Code: CYFS 214

Date changed: January 2010

### Course Changes:

The College of the Rockies updates course outlines regularly to meet changing educational, employment and marketing needs. The instructor will notify students in writing of any updates to this outline during the semester. The instructor reserves the right to revise, add or delete material while meeting the learning outcomes of this course outline.